

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 8, 9, 18 and 25-31 were pending and were examined. Claims 1-3, 8, 9, 18 and 25-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Claims 30 and 31 were objected to. Claims 4-7, 10-17, and 19-24 have been cancelled in response to a previous restriction requirement.

By this Amendment and Reply, Claims 2, 3, 30 and 31 are proposed to be amended, Claims 1, 8, 9, 18 and 25-29 are proposed to be cancelled herein. Accordingly, Claims 2, 3, 30 and 31 are presented for further examination. Entry of the above described amendments and favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

In Section 9 of the Office Action the Examiner advises Applicant that Claims 30 and 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this notification.

Accordingly, to streamline prosecution of the present application clarifying amendments are proposed to rewrite Claim 30 in independent form incorporating the limitations formally recited in independent Claim 1 and intervening Claim 29. Claims 2 and 3 were amended to depend from amended Claim 30. Claim 31 was amended to correct a typographical error.

Applicant believes that the foregoing amendments and remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action and that the claims herein are allowable. An early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Applicant believes that no fees are due with the submission of this Amendment.
However, Applicant authorizes the payment of any additional charges that may be necessary
to maintain the pendency of the present application to the undersigned attorney's Deposit
Account No. 503342.

Respectfully submitted,

By /Richard R. Michaud/
Richard R. Michaud
Registration No. 40,088
Attorney for Applicant

Michaud-Duffy Group LLP
306 Industrial Park Road, Suite 206
Middletown, CT 06457-1532
(860) 632-7200
(860) 632-8269